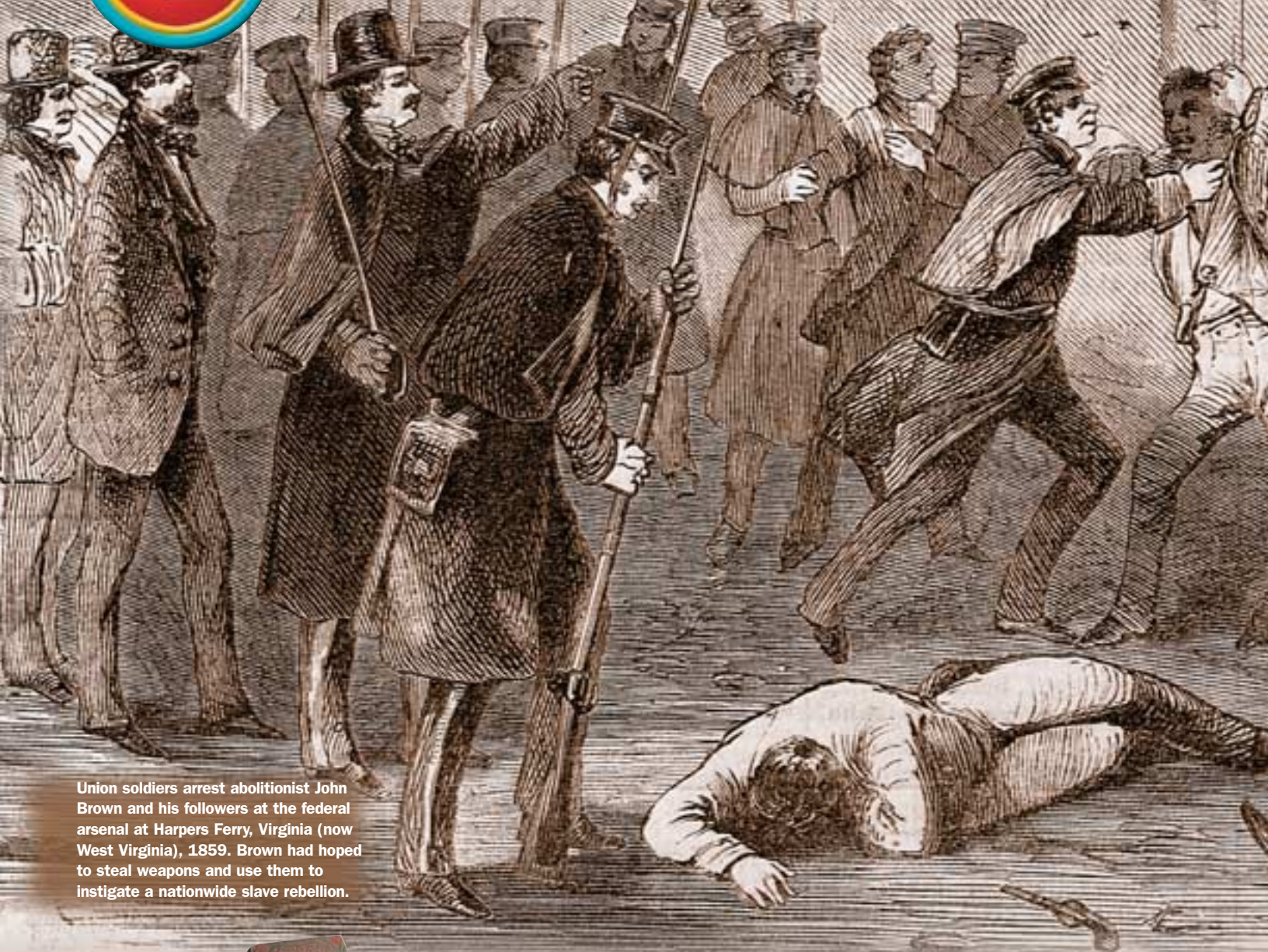


# THE UNION IN PERIL



Union soldiers arrest abolitionist John Brown and his followers at the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia), 1859. Brown had hoped to steal weapons and use them to instigate a nationwide slave rebellion.



**1852** Franklin Pierce is elected president.

**1852** *Uncle Tom's Cabin* published.

**1856** James Buchanan is elected president.

**1857** The Supreme Court rules against Dred Scott.

**1860** Abraham Lincoln wins presidential election.

**1860** South Carolina secedes.

**1861** The Confederacy is formed. Civil War begins.



USA  
WORLD

1850

1860



**1851** The Great Exhibition opens in London.

**1854** Charles Dickens's *Hard Times* is published.

**1861** Russian serfs emancipated by Czar Alexander II.





## INTERACT WITH HISTORY

The year is 1850. Across the United States a debate is raging, dividing North from South: Is slavery a property right or is it a violation of liberty and human dignity? The future of the Union depends on compromise—but for many people on both sides, compromise is unacceptable.

### *How can the Union be saved?*

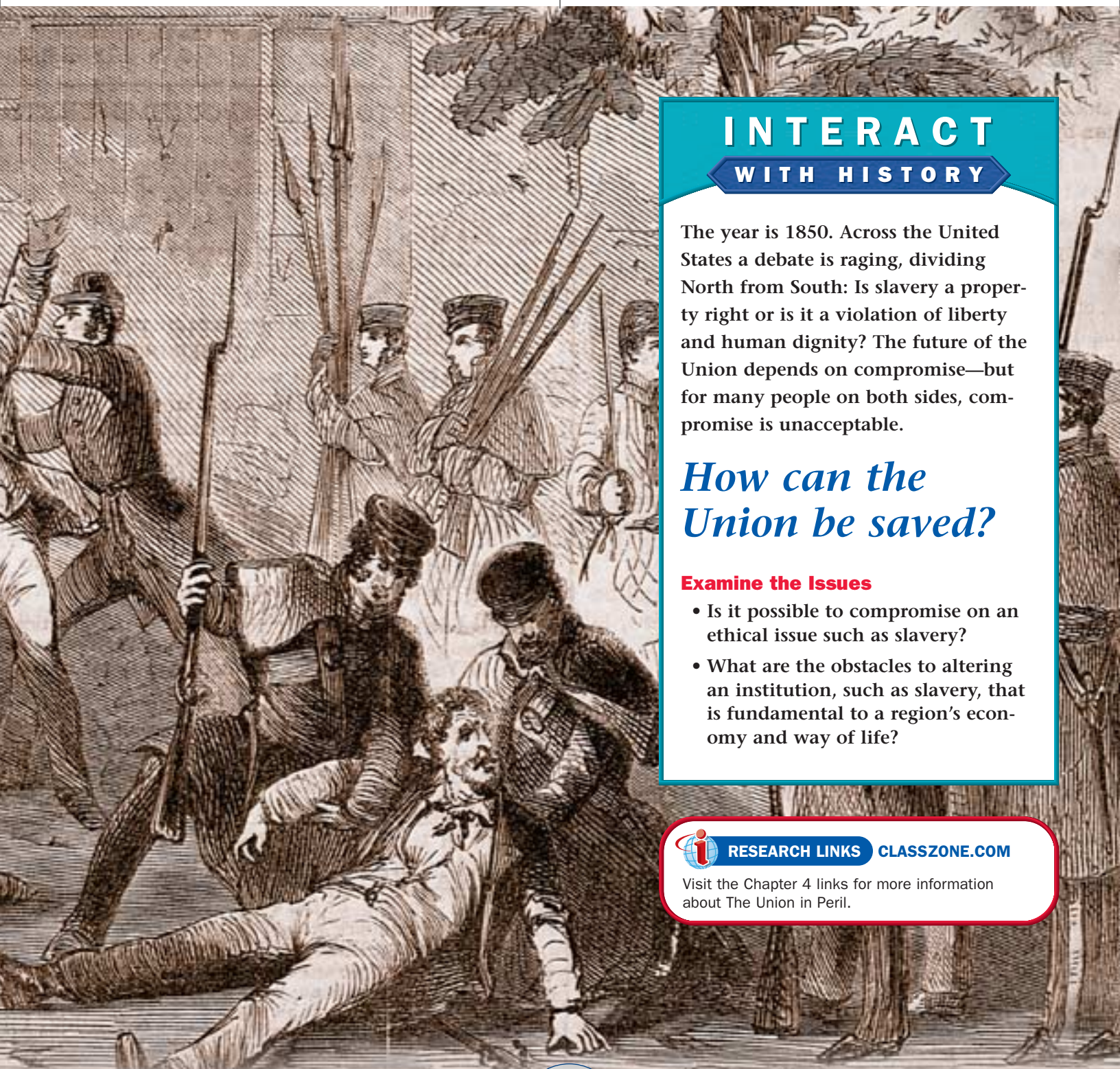
#### Examine the Issues

- Is it possible to compromise on an ethical issue such as slavery?
- What are the obstacles to altering an institution, such as slavery, that is fundamental to a region's economy and way of life?



#### RESEARCH LINKS CLASSZONE.COM

Visit the Chapter 4 links for more information about The Union in Peril.



**1863** Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg

**1865** Civil War ends.

**1865** Lincoln is assassinated; Andrew Johnson becomes president.

**1868** Ulysses S. Grant is elected president.



**1877** Rutherford B. Hayes is elected president.

**1877** Reconstruction ends.

**1870**

**1877**

**1864** Maximilian of Austria becomes emperor of Mexico.

**1868** Cubans revolt against Spain.

**1876** Japan forces Korea to open ports to trade.